CLAIMS

1 1. A method for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2 network, said method comprising:

3   a)   establishing a communications link between at least one computer-based device

4   and a remote server system;

5   b)   downloading a software module from said remote server system to said computer-

6   based device;

7   c)   transferring a first directive file from said remote server system to said software

8   module, said first directive file working in conjunction with said remote server

9   system, said software module identifying installed computer related information

10   on said computer-based device;

11   d)   said remote server system receiving a second directive file from said software

12   module regarding said identified installed computer related information;

13   e)   receiving from said software module a selected list of installed computer related

14   information to be uploaded to said remote server system;

15   f)   transferring a third directive file from said remote server system to said software

16   module, said third directive file working in conjunction with said remote server

17   system and said software module extracting said selected list of installed

18   computer-related information;

19   g)   said remote server system receiving said extracted information from said software

20   module in a fourth directive file, and

21   h)   said remote server system parsing said fourth directive file and storing said

22   extracted information.

1   2. A method for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 1, wherein one or more of said directive files are created from an

3   XML snippet database.

1   3. A method for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 2, wherein said XML snippet database is periodically updated to

3   include new and updated operating systems.

1   4. A method for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 3, wherein said step of transferring a first directive file from said

3   remote server system to said software module further comprises:

            identifying an operating system associated with said computer-based device;

            said remote server system accessing said XML snippet database to identify XML snippets

6   associated with said identified operating system, and

7   adding said identified XML snippets to said first directive file.

1   5. A method for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 3, wherein said step of transferring a third directive file from said

3   remote server system further comprises:

4   said remote server system accessing said XML snippet database to identify XML snippets

5   associated with said selected list of information, corresponding to identified installed

6   applications, files, and other data, to be uploaded to said remote server system, and

7   adding said identified snippets to said third directive file.

1   6. A method for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 1, wherein said information comprises any of the following:

3   hardware settings, system settings, attached device settings, application settings,

4   document settings, desktop settings, e-mail settings, and address book settings.

1   7. A method for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 1, wherein said information comprises any from the following list:

3   hardware settings, system settings, attached device settings, application settings,

4   document settings, files, desktop settings, files, data, e-mail settings, address book

5   settings, bookmarks, and cookies.

1   8. A method for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 1, wherein said computer-based devices include any of the

3   following: personal computer systems, laptops, portable computers, net devices, palm

4   computers or telephones.

1   9. A method for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 1, wherein said parsing of directive files is performed by an XML

3   parser.

1   10. A method for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 1, wherein said directive files and said stored information are in a

3   markup based format.

1   11. A method for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 11, wherein said markup format is any of the following formats:

3   HTML, SGML, XML or WML.

1   12. A method for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 1, wherein said remote server system is located within an enterprise

3   server system.

1   13. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across an

2   network, said system comprising:

3   at least one computer-based device connected to a remote server system through said

4   network;

5   a software module downloaded from said remote server system to said computer-based

6   device;

7   a markup based snippet database comprising application and operating system related

8   information, said snippet database accessible by said remote server system;

9   a first directive file from said remote server system identifying installed applications in

10   said computer-based device, said first directive file created by said remote server system

11   by selective retrieval of snippets from said markup based snippet database;

12   a second directive file, received by said remote server system from said software module,

13   comprising information regarding a list of selected information corresponding to

14   identified installed applications;

15   a third directive file from said remote server system providing instructions for extracting

16   said selected information, said third directive file created by said remote server system by

17   selective retrieval of snippets from said markup based snippet database, and

18   said remote server system receiving and storing said extracted information.

14. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

    network, as per claim 14, wherein said information comprises any from the following list:

    hardware settings, system settings, attached device settings, application settings,

    document settings, desktop settings, e-mail settings, and address book settings.

15. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

    network, as per claim 14, wherein said information comprises any from the following list:

    hardware settings, system settings, attached device settings, application settings,

4 document settings, files, desktop settings, files, data, e-mail settings, address book

5 settings, bookmarks, and cookies.

1 16. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2 network, as per claim 14, wherein said computer-based devices include any of the

3 following: personal computer systems, laptops, portable computers, net devices, palm

4 computers or telephones.

1 17. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2 network, as per claim 14, wherein said stored information and directive files are in a

3 markup based format.

1 18. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2 network, as per claim 18, wherein said markup based format includes any of the

3 following languages: HTML, SGML, WML or XML.

1 19. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2 network, as per claim 19, wherein said system further includes an XML parser for parsing

3 directive files in XML format.

1 20. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2 network, as per claim 14, wherein said network comprises any of the following: local area

3   network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), Internet, HTTP-based network, wireless

4   network or enterprise network.

1   21. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 14, wherein said snippet database is an XML snippet database.

1   22. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

· 2   network, as per claim 22, wherein said XML snippet database is periodically updated to

3   include new and updated applications.

23. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

network, said system comprising:

at least one computer-based device connected to a remote server system through said

network;

a software module downloaded from said remote server system to said computer-based

device;

7   an XML snippet database comprising application and operating system related

8   information, said XML snippet database accessible by said remote server system;

9   one or more directive files created by said remote server system by selective retrieval

10   from said XML snippet database, said one or more directive files transferred to said

11   software module and identifying information to be transferred from said computer-based

12   device, and

13   one or more directive out files received and stored by said remote server system from said

14   software module, said directive out files comprising said identified information.

1   24. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 25, wherein said information comprises any from the following list:

3   hardware settings, system settings, attached device settings, application settings,

4   document settings, desktop settings, e-mail settings, and address book settings.

1   25. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 25, wherein said information comprises any from the following list:

3   hardware settings, system settings, attached device settings, application settings,

4   document settings, files, desktop settings, files, data, e-mail settings, address book

5   settings, bookmarks, and cookies.

1   26. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 25, wherein said computer-based devices include any of the

3   following: personal computer systems, laptops, portable computers, net devices, palm

4   computers or telephones.

1   27. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 25, wherein said directive files and stored information are in an

3   XML format.

1   28. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 29, wherein said system further includes an XML parser for parsing

3   directive files in XML format.

1   29. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 25, wherein said network comprises any of the following: local area

3   network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), Internet, HTTP-based network, wireless

4   network or enterprise network.

1   30. A system for remotely extracting and storing computer related information across a

2   network, as per claim 25, wherein said XML snippet database is periodically updated to

3   include new and updated applications.